



The physician's response to climate change

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Abstract:

Climate change will have an effect on the health and well-being of the populations cared for by practicing physicians. The anticipated medical effects include heat- and cold-related deaths, cardiovascular illnesses, injuries and mental harms from extreme weather events, respiratory illnesses caused by poor air quality, infectious diseases that emanate from contaminated food, water, or spread of disease vectors, the injuries caused by natural disasters, and the mental harm associated with social disruption. Within several years, such medical problems are likely to reach the doorsteps of many physicians. In the face of this reality, physicians should assume their traditional roles as medical professionals, health educators, and community leaders. Clinicians provide individual health services to patients, some of whom will be especially vulnerable to the emerging health consequences of global warming. Physicians also work in academic medical institutions and hospitals that educate and provide continuing medical education to students, residents, and practitioners. The institutions also produce a measurable carbon footprint. Societies of physicians at national, state, and local levels can choose to use their well-developed avenues of communication to raise awareness of the key issues that are raised by climate change as well as other environmental concerns that have profound implications for human health and well-being.

Source: Ask your librarian to help locate this item.

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional, Public

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Security, Precipitation, Temperature

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Air Pollution: Allergens, Interaction with Temperature, Ozone

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones

Temperature: Extreme Cold, Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

Geographic Feature: 

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Desert, Urban

Geographic Location: 

resource focuses on specific location

United States

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation): 

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Impact: 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, Diabetes/Obesity, Infectious Disease, Injury, Mental Health/Stress, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease, Zoonotic Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: General Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Salmonellosis

Vectorborne Disease: General Vectorborne, Mosquito-borne Disease, Tick-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Dengue, Malaria, Viral Encephalitis, West Nile Virus

Tick-borne Disease: Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

Zoonotic Disease: Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Stress Disorder

Respiratory Effect: Asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Upper Respiratory Allergy

Medical Community Engagement: 

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content


Mitigation/Adaptation: 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

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Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: 

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly, Workers

Other Vulnerable Population: Pre-existing medical conditions

Resource Type: 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale: 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified